

VZCZCXRO3279  
PP RUEHDA  
DE RUEHAK #2893 3381548  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 041548Z DEC 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4544  
INFO RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY 2500  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 3591  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ANKARA 002893

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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DEPT FOR EUR/SE, G/TIP JENNIFER DONNELLY, AMY ROFMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TURKEY: RELIEF ON THE WAY FOR ANKARA TIP SHELTER

REF: A. ANKARA 2512

[B.](#) ANKARA 1893

ANKARA TIP SHELTER HANGS ON

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[¶1.](#) (SBU) The Ankara TIP shelter, operated by the Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS), remains open despite a three-month funding short-fall. FWS could not pay salaries in September, October, or November 2007. The Canadian International Development Agency has responded positively to the IOM Chief of Mission's appeal to Ambassadors on behalf of the Ankara shelter (ref A). It will provide a small grant to FWS to help cover unpaid salaries, though, without additional assistance, a large portion of the last three months' salaries will remain unpaid. Looking ahead, IOM Senior Trafficking Assistant Meltem Ersoy told us the European Commission (EC) delegation to Ankara and IOM are preparing to sign an agreement this week on a two-year, 3 million Euro comprehensive anti-trafficking program with Turkey. Upon signing, both the Ankara and Istanbul shelters will receive 15-18 months guaranteed funding. The overall program will address institutional capacity building, law enforcement training, data management, and demand management. The EC has already seconded an official to IOM to help oversee implementation of the program in the first year. Ersoy noted that delays in reaching agreement between the EC and IOM on the program contributed to the funding short-fall at the shelter, as the GOT had anticipated these funds becoming available sooner.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) The EC-funded program is designed to support the GOT's anti-trafficking national action plan (NAP). The NAP, we are told, is nearly finalized and will soon arrive at the PM's office for signature, with extensive input from, and review by the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs. We expect guaranteed support for Turkey's TIP shelters to be a key component of the NAP, and will report on the plan as soon as it is adopted.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT UNDERWAY

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[¶3.](#) (SBU) In addition to the emergency funding for Turkey's TIP shelters, in July 2007 we had recommended USG support for an IOM anti-trafficking legal assistance project, which would offer TIP training to legal service providers through local bar associations (ref B). Ersoy reported to us that the project will soon get underway, thanks to contributions of the Dutch (40 percent) and Swedish (60 percent) governments. The initial focus will be on Ankara. There is still room for USG participation. Additional resources would allow IOM to expand the training to other districts. We continue to encourage Department funding of this useful initiative.

COMMENT: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE DOES NOT EQUAL  
A LACK OF CONCERN

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¶4. (SBU) COMMENT. As reported in ref A, the GOT's failure to guarantee funding for Turkey's two dedicated TIP shelters has been a perennial weakness in Turkey's otherwise commendable counter-trafficking effort. Fortunately, it appears the GOT is finally getting a handle on this issue, albeit with EU support. International support, particularly from Europe, will remain an important part of Turkey's anti-trafficking efforts. Foreign assistance should not be misinterpreted to signify a lack of GOT concern. Turkey is a large, low-income, EU-accession country, and the beneficiary of significant pre-accession, harmonization funds in a number of areas. European contacts tell us the GOT has been a strong partner, working diligently and constructively to manage these resources and build its anti-TIP capacity. Turkey is in a critical region and much remains to be done. Limited, targeted U.S. funding would go a long way toward deepening our own engagement with the GOT on this issue, and help us further develop Turkey's capacity to continue to make strides toward eliminating TIP.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON